

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : C08F 16/24, C07C 69/708		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/07306 (43) International Publication Date: 16 March 1995 (16.03.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/09530 (22) International Filing Date: 1 September 1994 (01.09.94)		(81) Designated States: JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(30) Priority Data: 08/115,060 7 September 1993 (07.09.93) US		Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(71) Applicant: E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).			
(72) Inventors: HUNG, Ming-Hong; 601 Andover Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 (US). RESNICK, Paul, Raphael; 732 Nottingham Road, Wilmington, DE 19805 (US).			
(74) Agents: TOCKER, Edwin et al.; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Legal/Patent Records Center, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).			
(54) Title: FUNCTIONAL FLUOROPOLYMERS			
(57) Abstract Repeat units having pendant functional groups increase the solubility of polymers containing repeat units of perfluoro-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxole.			

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

TITLE
FUNCTIONAL FLUOROPOLYMERS
FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention is in the field of fluoropolymers, and in particular
5 pertains to substantially non-elastomeric fluoropolymers containing monomer
units that introduce pendant functional groups into the polymer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There are numerous well-known fluoropolymers in the class
generally regarded as fluoroplastics, including both partially crystalline and
10 amorphous fluoropolymers. Commonly, these polymers are stable at high
temperature and resistant to chemical attack, with the degree of stability and
inertness increasing with fluorine content in the molecule. While the chemical
properties of known fluoropolymers are highly desirable for many purposes,
their inertness also has the effect of making it difficult to produce solutions of
15 the fluoropolymers or to bond other materials to them. When the polymer
contains only perfluorinated monomers, the resultant perfluoropolymer is most
difficult to put into solution.

Resnick in U.S. Patent 3,978,030 describes certain polymers of
perfluoro-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxole (PDD), including both homopolymers of
20 PDD, which are not further characterized, and a crystalline copolymer of
tetrafluoroethylene (TFE), which has a melting point T_m of about 265°C. Since
Resnick's discovery of PDD homopolymer, it has been established that the
material is amorphous and has a very high glass transition temperature T_g of
about 335°C. The homopolymer is brittle and difficult to fabricate into final
25 products because of poor melt flow and low solubility in available solvents.

Squire in U.S. Patent 4,530,569 describes amorphous dipolymers
of PDD with TFE as well as terpolymers of PDD with TFE and another
comonomer. In U.S. Patents 4,935,477 and 4,754,009, Squire describes
dipolymers and terpolymers (collectively, copolymers) of PDD with
30 comonomers which include certain perfluoroolefins and perfluoro(alkyl vinyl)
ethers. It is shown in these patents that, in general, the T_g of those copolymers
decreases with increasing comonomer content, although not necessarily in a
linear fashion. For a dipolymer containing 10 mol% of TFE, T_g is decreased to
about 260°C. Generally, if the PDD content of those copolymers is less than
35 about 12 mol%, those copolymers have some crystallinity. While the

amorphous copolymers are soluble at room temperature in perfluoro(2-butyl tetrahydrofuran), their solubility is not high. For example, a dipolymer with 10 mol% of TFE has a solubility of less than 3 wt% in this solvent. This imposes some restrictions on fabrication techniques that require application of copolymer from solution, such as dip-coating or spray-coating.

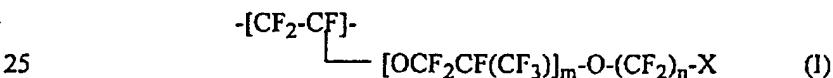
5 from solution, such as dip-coating or spray-coating.

U.S. Patent 4,897,457 to Nakamura *et al.* describes homopolymers and copolymers containing 6-membered and 5-membered rings derived from the monomer $\text{CF}_2=\text{CF}-\text{OCF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{CF}=\text{CF}_2$, perfluoro(butenyl vinyl ether) (PBVE) which forms the cyclic structure(s) during polymerization. For the amorphous homopolymer, T_g is only about 108°C. Comonomers disclosed have the effect of reducing T_g . Moreover, it is stated that copolymers with fluorinated olefins and vinyl ethers lose transparency, solvent-solubility, and mechanical strength if repeat units derived from PBVE constitute less than 80 wt% of the polymer.

15 Hung in U.S. Patents 4,982,009 and 5,059,720 discloses hydroxy-containing fluorovinyl ethers and polymers containing units derived from those ether monomers. Among those hydroxy-containing fluorovinyl ethers, a preferred monomer is $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFO-CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{O-CF}_2\text{CF}_2-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ (EVE-OH).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides functional polymers having increased solubility, comprising repeat units of perfluoro-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxole and the repeat unit

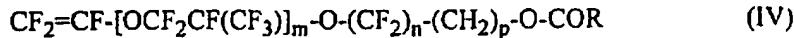


wherein X is $(CH_2)_p-O-COR$ (II)

or COOR (III)

and m = 0-20, n = 1-10, p = 1-4, and R is alkyl having 1-6 carbon atoms or phenyl.

The functional repeat unit (I) with X = (II) can be derived from monomer compounds of the formula



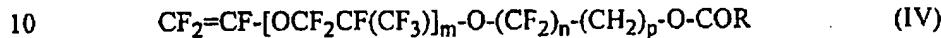
which are also provided by this invention.

It is preferred that $m = 0-5$, $n = 1-4$, $p = 1-2$, and R is alkyl.

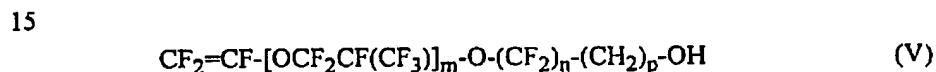
5 It is most preferred that $m = 0-3$, $p = 1$, and R is methyl or ethyl.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In one embodiment, the polymers of this invention contain units derived from functional fluorovinyl ethers having the general formula



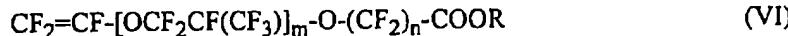
wherein $m = 0-20$, $n = 1-10$, $p = 1-4$, and R is alkyl having 1-6 carbon atoms or phenyl. These monomers can be derived from hydroxy-functional fluorovinyl ethers disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,982,009 and having the general formula



wherein m, n, and p are as defined above. The hydroxy compound (V) can be converted to the ester compound (IV) by reaction with pyridine.

20 N,N-dimethylaminopyridine, and acetyl chloride in methylene chloride. This reaction can be conducted in glassware, for example, at atmospheric pressure and at cool temperatures such as 0°-25°C, preferably 5°-15°C. The product (IV) can be isolated from the reaction mass by conventional means.

In another embodiment of the invention, the polymers of this
25 invention contain units derived from functional fluorovinyl ether monomers having the general formula



30 but which may require post-polymerization esterification because of partial hydrolysis of -COOR during aqueous polymerization. The esterification can be carried out by treatment of the polymer, for example, with trimethyl orthoformate.

The concentration of repeat units (I) in the polymer is about 0.1-
35 10 mol%, preferably 0.5-5 mol%.

The polymer of this invention is a generally random copolymer comprising repeat units of PDD and repeat units (I). While the polymer of this invention can consist essentially of repeat units of PDD and repeat units (I), the polymer can contain units from one or more other fluoromonomers that will 5 copolymerize with PDD, (IV) and (VI). Other fluoromonomers that can be used include but are not limited to TFE, hexafluoropropylene, chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE), vinylidene fluoride, PBVE, and perfluoro(alkyl vinyl) ether (PAVE) having the formula $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFO}(\text{CF}_2\text{CFXO})_n\text{R}_f$ wherein X is F or CF_3 , n is 0-5, and R_f is a perfluoroalkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms. When other 10 fluoromonomers are used, the ratio of repeat units of PDD to repeat units of other fluoromonomers is desirably at least about 12/88 on a molar basis. Since T_g of the polymer increases with PDD content, it is often advantageous to have higher ratios of repeat units of PDD to repeat units of other fluoromonomers, such as at least about 65/35 or 70/30 or 80/20 or even 90/10. Preferred other 15 fluoromonomers are TFE, CTFE, PBVE and PAVE with n = 0 in the formula above. TFE is especially preferred either alone or in combination with other fluoromonomers, and is most preferred alone.

Polymers of this invention are of such molecular weight that the inherent viscosity measured in perfluoro(2-butyl tetrahydrofuran) (Fluorinert® 20 FC-75, 3M Company) at 25°C will be at least about 0.3 and can range up to about 2.5. A preferred range is 0.4-2.0 for inherent viscosity.

The polymer of this invention, containing repeat units (I), exhibits increased solubility over polymer otherwise similar but lacking repeat units (I). Surprisingly, small concentrations, or small differences in 25 concentration, of these repeat units make large differences in solubility of the polymer. Increased solubility enhances utility in fabrication techniques such as dip-coating or spray-coating. For example, a solution of higher concentration would yield a thicker coating in a single dip.

30

EXAMPLE 1



In a round bottom flask, 354.6 g (0.9 mole) of $\text{CF}_2=\text{CF-[OCF}_2\text{CF(CF}_3\text{)]-O-(CF}_2)_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-OH}$ (EVE-OH), prepared according to U.S. Patent 4,982,009, were dissolved in 900 ml of methylene chloride 35 maintained at 5°-10°C. Temperature was controlled by adjusting the depth to

which the flask was immersed in an ice-water bath. First pyridine (71.2 g, 0.9 mole) and then N,N-dimethylaminopyridine (22 g, 0.18 mole) were added sequentially and slowly with stirring while the flask contents were kept at a temperature below 10°C. Then acetyl chloride (94.2 g, 1.2 mole) was added

5 slowly while the temperature of the reaction mixture was kept below 15°C. After the addition was complete, the reaction mass was warmed to ambient temperature and dumped into a mixture of ice-water (750 ml) and 6N HCl (750 ml). After stirring, the bottom organic layer was separated with a separatory funnel, washed sequentially with dilute HCl and then water, and dried over

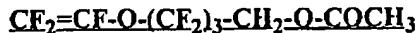
10 magnesium sulfate. After methylene chloride was removed with vacuum, the residue was distilled to yield 275 g (70% yield) of product
 $\text{CF}_2=\text{CF}-[\text{OCF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)]-\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2)_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{COCH}_3$ (methyl 2,2-dihydro-perfluoro-[5,8-dioxa-6-methyl-9-nonenoate], herein called EVE-OAc) that boiled at 104°C at a pressure of 60 mmHg. Proton and ^{19}F NMR analyses

15 confirmed the structure of EVE-OAc. Elemental analysis further supports the identification of the product as EVE-OAc, as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Composition of EVE-OAc

<u>Element</u>	<u>Element Fraction (wt%)</u>	
	<u>Theoretical</u>	<u>Measured</u>
C	27.52	27.69
H	1.16	1.18
F	56.65	56.54

20

EXAMPLE 2

Using the flask and temperature control method of Example 1, 27.8 g (0.1 mole) of 7,7-dihydro-7-hydroxy-perfluoro-(3-oxa-heptene) prepared according to U.S. Patent 4,982,009, were dissolved in 100 ml of methylene chloride at 5°-10°C. To this solution, pyridine (7.91 g, 0.1 mole) and N,N-dimethylaminopyridine (2.44 g, 0.02 mole) were added in the order named, followed by acetyl chloride (10.45 g, 0.133 mole) while the reaction mass temperature was kept below 15°C. After addition was complete, the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and was worked up as in Example 1.

25 30 After distillation, 20 g (62.5% yield) of product $\text{CF}_2=\text{CF}-\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2)_3-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$

COCH₃ (methyl 2,2-dihydro-perfluoro-[6-oxa-7-heptenoate]) were obtained as a clear liquid that boiled at 82°C at a pressure of 50 mmHg. Proton and ¹⁹F NMR analyses confirmed the named structure.

5

EXAMPLE 3

Non-Aqueous Polymerization of PDD/TFE/EVE-OAc

A shaker tube was charged with 185 g of 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (CFC-113), 10 g (0.023 mole) of EVE-OAc, 50 g (0.205 mole) of perfluoro-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxole (PDD), 1 g of TFE, and 0.1 g of 4,4'-bis(1-butylcyclohexyl)peroxy dicarbonate initiator. The tube was sealed, cooled, and evacuated. Then, 1 g of TFE was charged to the tube. The tube was sealed again and heated to reaction temperature with shaking. Polymerization was carried out for 3 hr at 50°C followed by 5 hr at 60°C. After venting the tube, a polymer solution was discharged and CFC-113 was evaporated. The residue was washed with water and dried in a vacuum (150 mmHg) oven at 100°C for 24 hr to yield 43.7 g of polymer. This polymer had T_g of 238°C by DSC. No crystalline melting point was detected. Inherent viscosity was 1.26 measured in FC-75 at 25°C.

20

EXAMPLES 4-5

Two additional PDD/TFE/EVE-OAc polymers were prepared by the general procedure of Example 3 except that monomer quantities were changed to obtain different polymer compositions. Polymerization temperatures were in the range of 50°-70°C. The molar compositions of the polymers were PDD/TFE/EVE-OAc = 67.6/30/2.4 (Example 4) and 78.4/20.5/1.1 (Example 5) by ¹⁹F NMR at high temperature. The Example 4 polymer had T_g = 147°C and inherent viscosity of 0.55, while the Example 5 polymer had T_g = 177°C and inherent viscosity of 1.66.

30

EXAMPLE 6

Aqueous Polymerization of PDD/TFE/EVE-OAc

A 2-liter horizontal stirred reactor was charged with 1250 ml of demineralized water, 50 ml of CFC-113, 4.0 g of the ammonium salt of perfluorononanoic carboxylic acid (Surflon® S111, Asahi Glass), 55 g (0.126 mole) of EVE-OAc, and 50 ml of 4% aqueous solution of ammonium persulfate.

The reactor was purged with nitrogen, and then 10 g (0.1 mole) of TFE and 48 g (0.197 mole) of PDD were charged. The reactor was heated to 60°C and the agitator speed was adjusted to 175 rpm. When the temperature stabilized at 60°C, simultaneous TFE feed and PDD feed were started at the rates of 14 g/hr

- 5 and 86.4 g/hr, respectively. Monomer feeding was continued for 3 hr. After stopping monomer feeds, the reactor was vented and a milky dispersion was discharged. The dispersion was coagulated by vigorous stirring, washed with water, and dried to yield 359.9 g of white polymer powder. T_g for this polymer was 136°C as determined by DSC. No crystalline melting point was detected.
- 10 The molar composition of the polymer was PDD/TFE/EVE-OAc = 68.9/27.1/4.0 by ^{19}F NMR at high temperature. Inherent viscosity was 0.84 in FC-75 at 25°C.

EXAMPLE 7

15

Solubility Testing

- The polymers of Examples 3-6 were tested for solubility in CFC-113 and FC-75 at room temperature. Control polymers A and B tested for comparison were PDD/TFE dipolymers prepared generally as described by Squire in U.S. Patent 4,530,569. Solubility data are summarized in Table 2, in which solubilities are expressed as %wt/wt, meaning weight of polymer as per cent of solvent weight. The data show the benefit to solubility of repeat units of formula (I) when X has formula (II).

TABLE 2. Solubilities for Examples 3-6 and Controls

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Composition (mol%)</u> <u>PDD/TFE/EVE-OAc</u>	<u>T_g (°C)</u>	<u>Solubility (%wt/wt)</u>	
			<u>CFC-113</u>	<u>FC-75</u>
A	95/5/0	230-240	0	2
B	65/35/0	150-160	0	10
Ex. 3	---	238	0	2-4
Ex. 4	67.6/30/2.4	147	13	>10
Ex. 5	78.4/20.5/1.1	177	1	8-9
Ex. 6	68.9/27.1/4.0	136	>15	>15

25

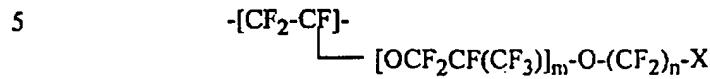
EXAMPLE 8**PDD/TFE/EVE Polymer**

In the 2-liter reactor of Example 5, a mixture of 1350 ml of demineralized water, 4 g of ammonium perfluorononanoate, 4.8 ml of CFC-113, 5 3.2 ml of $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFO}-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{O}-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2-\text{COOC}\text{H}_3$ (EVE, prepared according to U.S. Patent 4,138,426), 11.1 g of TFE, 26 ml of PDD, and 4 g of ammonium persulfate heated to 60°C and stirred until the pressure dropped by 5 psi. Then, 60 g of TFE, 16.8 ml of EVE, 25.2 ml of CFC-113, and 140.8 ml of PDD were added in 3 hr. The resulting polymer latex was discharged from the 10 reactor, and was coagulated by the addition of 25 ml of concentrated nitric acid followed by addition of CFC-113 and stirring. The polymer was washed with water, heated to 55°C for one hour, filtered, and dried to give 316.5 g of white polymer with a T_g of 125°C by DSC. No crystalline melting was detected. An infrared spectrum of a film pressed from the polymer showed the presence of 15 bands due to $-\text{COOCH}_3$ (1796 cm⁻¹) and $-\text{COOH}$ (1775 cm⁻¹). The spectrum was consistent with a terpolymer of PDD, TFE, and EVE in which some of the ester group had hydrolyzed to carboxylic acid.

A portion of the above polymer was refluxed for 66 hr with trimethyl orthoformate, filtered, and dried in a vacuum oven at 135°C for 30 20 min. An infrared spectrum of a film pressed from the treated polymer showed only the ester band at 1796 cm⁻¹. The acid band at 1775 cm⁻¹ was gone. The solubility of the polymer in FC-75 at room temperature rose from 1-3% before trimethyl orthoformate treatment to almost 8% after this treatment, showing the benefit to solubility of repeat units of formula (I) when X has formula (III). 25 Solubilities in this example are expressed as weight of polymer as per cent of solution weight.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Fluoropolymer comprising repeat units of perfluoro-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxole and the repeat unit



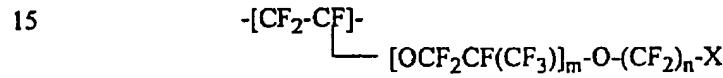
wherein X is (CH₂)_p-O-COR or COOR

and m = 0-20, n = 1-10, p = 1-4, and R is alkyl having 1-6 carbon atoms or phenyl.

10 2. The fluoropolymer of Claim 1 wherein m = 0-5, n = 1-4, p = 1-2, and R is alkyl.

 3. The fluoropolymer of Claim 2 wherein m = 0-3, p = 1, and R is methyl or ethyl.

 4. The fluoropolymer of Claim 1 wherein the concentration of



is about 0.1-10 mol%.

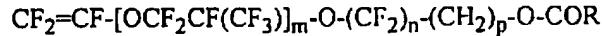
 5. The fluoropolymer of Claim 1 wherein the concentration is 0.5-5 mol%.

20 6. The fluoropolymer of Claim 1 further comprising repeat units of at least one additional fluoromonomer.

 7. The fluoropolymer of Claim 6 wherein an additional fluoromonomer is selected from tetrafluoroethylene, chlorotrifluoroethylene, perfluoro(butenyl vinyl ether), and perfluoro(alkyl vinyl) ether.

25 8. The fluoropolymer of Claim 7 wherein an additional fluoromonomer is tetrafluoroethylene.

 9. A monomer composition having the formula



wherein m = 0-20, n = 1-10, p = 1-4, and R is alkyl having 1-6 carbon atoms or phenyl.

30 10. The monomer of Claim 9 wherein m = 0-5, n = 1-4, p = 1-2, and R is alkyl.

 11. The monomer of Claim 10 wherein m = 0-3, p = 1, and R is methyl or ethyl.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 94/09530

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 C08F16/24 C07C69/708

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 C08F C07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO,A,90 12043 (HOECHST A.G.) 18 October 1990 see claim 1	1-8
X	AU,A,539 708 (E.I.DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND CO.) 3 August 1982 see claims 1,3	1-11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- 'L' document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

'&' document member of the same patent family

1

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 January 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

24.01.95

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.O. Box 3818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Telex 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Cauwenberg, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l Application No
PCT/US 94/09530

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO-A-9012043	18-10-90	DE-A-	3912148	18-10-90
		AT-T-	112787	15-10-94
		AU-B-	642137	14-10-93
		AU-A-	5432890	05-11-90
		DE-D-	59007459	17-11-94
		EP-A-	0467933	29-01-92
		JP-T-	4506529	12-11-92
		US-A-	5301254	05-04-94
AU-A-539708	11-10-84	AU-A-	8671382	11-11-82